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# Northern Region News



March 5, 1993

A Newsletter For Employees and Retirees

Issue 3

## Joel Holtrop Wins National TES Award

**Leadership in threatened,  
endangered and sensitive species  
program recognized**

by Bill Ruediger,  
Threatened & Endangered Species Program Leader  
Wildlife and Fisheries, Regional Office

**J**oel Holtrop, forest supervisor for the Flathead National Forest, has won the first national award given to a line officer for leadership in the threatened, endangered and sensitive (TES) species program. Competition included line officers from all other Regions in the Forest Service. Associate Chief George Leonard presented Holtrop with the award at the National TES Line Officers Training Course in Washington D.C., on January 26.

Holtrop was honored for his leadership in conservation of grizzly bears, wolves, sensitive plants and fish. The Flathead National Forest is considered one of the most complex and important for TES conservation in the United States. It has the largest number of grizzly bears in the lower 48, the largest number of wolves in the Northern Rockies, and is a stronghold for the bull trout.

Also important has been Holtrop's leadership in coordinating TES resources with other uses of the Forest. The Flathead has major natural resources such as timber, recreation, wilderness and oil and gas exploration. Partly because of its location near Glacier National Park, and also because of the world class resources it encompasses, the Flathead National Forest has been a center of national environmental debate.



Joel Holtrop

## GEICO Public Service Award Goes to Jeffries

**J**erry Jeffries, Aviation and Fire Management safety officer for Region 1, has been selected as one of five recipients of the GEICO National Public Service Awards.

Each year, the Government Employees Insurance Company (GEICO) selects four active Federal employees and one Federal retired employee nation-wide to recognize for their outstanding leadership in one of four fields, one of which is fire prevention and safety. Jeffries' award was in recognition of his consistent and outstanding contributions to wildland fire safety. During his career with the Forest Service, he has designed and implemented several fire safety instructional programs that have resulted in a dramatic reduction of fireline accidents.

One such program coordinated by Jeffries is the National Tractor Plow/Fireline Dozer instructional package. A national training video and workbook was developed that concentrates on the personal protective equipment, communication, strategy and tactics, management/supervision and training of personnel involved in one of the most dangerous fireline activities—the operation of the tractor plow/fireline dozer.

Jeffries was also involved with the design and implementation of a chainsaw safety training program that was adopted by the Northern Rockies Wildfire Coordinating Group. The group is composed of the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, State of Montana, State of Idaho and the State of North Dakota.

Other major contributions include spearheading the effort to extend the Standards for Survival course to everyone who goes out to fire camp and instructing eight to ten safety courses a year at the Northern Region Interagency Fire Training Center.

As a recipient of one of the awards, Jeffries received an all expense paid trip for himself and his wife to Washington where he was presented with a commemorative plaque and a cash award of \$2,500 at ceremonies held March 1.



Jerry Jeffries

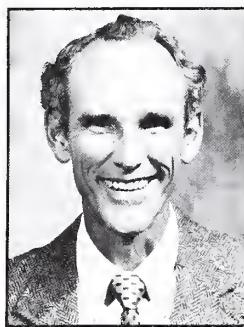
## Scientist Gets National Award for Fire Research

**F**orest Service scientist Dr. James Brown, recognized internationally for his research and contributions to wildland fire management, recently received a Superior Science Award from Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson. The award is given to scientists who have made contributions of major impact on science or technology and scientific leadership.

Brown, project leader of the Intermountain Research Station's Fire Effects Research Work Unit in Missoula, has contributed greatly to the development of scientific and practical methods for appraising wildland fuels and related fire effects.

More recently, Brown and his team of scientists developed a computerized fire effects information system, which is available nation-wide. The system provides up-to-date information about the effects of fire for use by those staff involved in prescribed fire projects, land rehabilitation projects, fire management plans, or planning silvicultural, range, or wildlife habitat improvement projects.

Richard Krebill, assistant director for the Intermountain Research Station, calls Brown "the foremost wildland fuels person in the United States, and probably the world."



Dr. James Brown

## Custer National Forest Thanks North Dakota Governor

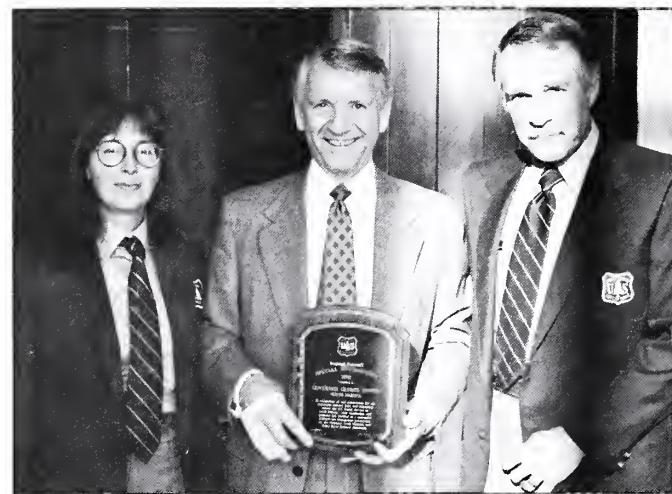
by Arlis Waltos, Information Assistant  
Custer National Forest

**A** Regional Forester Award for Excellence was recently presented to North Dakota's Governor George Sinner at his office in Bismarck. Custer National Forest Supervisor Curtis Bates and Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor Linda Ward-Williams presented the award in recognition of the support and friendship Sinner displayed during his eight-year administration.

Sinner was instrumental in resolving issues concerning oil and gas development and wildlife in the Little Missouri National Grassland which assisted in the successful completion of the Nation's first oil and gas leasing Environmental Impact Statement.

Governor Sinner assisted wildlife resource management on the Grasslands in North Dakota by supporting the establishment of a cooperative biologist position and funding of a cooperative wildlife study. His leadership in parks, recreation and tourism provided the Forest Service an

exceptional partner in many beneficial cooperative projects such as rare plant studies, surveys of Research Natural Areas and other recreation projects.



Governor George Sinner at center receives award from Custer National Forest Supervisor Curtis Bates and Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor Linda Ward-Williams.

The Forest Service enjoyed a positive relationship with the state agencies largely due to Sinner's leadership.

## Win Green Takes on New Role

**A**fter lengthy discussions between the Regional Forester and the Idaho Governor, a liaison position has been established by the Forest Service with the Idaho State Forester. Win Green, former forest supervisor for the Clearwater National Forest, has been selected for the appointment.

Green's primary role will be to foster an effective relationship with the State of Idaho for implementation of the Idaho Forest Practices Act. According to Green, considerable time will be devoted to coordination between all national forest offices, Idaho Department of Lands, state offices in Boise, the Forest Service Regional Offices in Ogden and Missoula, industry, and environmental groups.

Emphasis will be placed on developing a consistent and cooperative approach administering Idaho's water quality standards (Clean Water Act) and the Idaho State Forestry Act on national forest lands, developing a State-wide assessment of watershed conditions, and determining over-all compliance by the Forest Service in Idaho relative to the Clean Water Act.

On announcing the appointment, Regional Forester Dave Jolly stated, "He has held positions at every level of the organization and understands how government works. He is the right person for this ground-breaking effort."

Green assumed his new position on February 21. Orville Daniels, Lolo National Forest supervisor, is acting Clearwater forest supervisor until a replacement is named. Green's new office is located at 1618 Idaho Street, Lewiston, ID 83501, telephone (208) 746-0165.

## Historic Preservation Team Receives Primitive Skills Award

**T**he Northern Region was the first Region in the Forest Service to recognize significant wilderness accomplishments using primitive skills and tools through the presentation of a Primitive Skills Award in 1977. Since that time, the primitive skills award has spread to other Regions as well as the Chief's Office in Washington.

Historically the award in Region 1 has gone to bridge replacement and trails-related projects. However this year the Silver Axe Primitive Skills Award went to the Regional Historic Preservation Team for the bunkhouse restoration project at Big Prairie Work Center in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The team members include team leader Bernie Weisgerber, Dale Swee, Bill Harris and Cary King.

The project involved the replacement of a wood shingle roof and portions of log rafters on a 1938 bunkhouse that is part of a log complex at Big Prairie. The site is 32 miles from the entry point into the Bob Marshall Wilderness which presented logistical problems in hauling in supplies. The Spotted Bear and Ninemile pack strings were used to transport 60 bundles of shingles, 6 large boxes of carpenters tools, nails, boards and other materials and supplies to the job site.

It was an unusual project for the team because for the past 40 years journeymen carpenters have used primitive

carpenters tools only occasionally, relying primarily on generators and power tools. Except for historical re-enactments and other exceptional cases, total dependence on primitive carpenters tools by journeymen carpenters is virtually unheard of.

Another important consideration in planning the project was the historical and architectural significance of the complex. "The building and the complex deserved as good a job as we could do. And the pristine setting is outstanding. I'm glad it all went well," said Bernie Weisgerber. Good support and cooperation from the Flathead aided in the project's success, Weisgerber added.

Regional Wilderness Specialist Steve Morton agreed that the project, although different from those usually recognized

by the Silver Axe award, was important in promoting the use of primitive skills. "The team's use of the same tools with which the building was constructed complements the philosophy of the Wilderness and supports the effort to keep primitive skills alive," Morton stated.

Two other projects nominated for the award included the Lochsa Ranger District for mule trail plowing and the Philipsburg Ranger District for trail work. Both districts will receive certificates recognizing their achievements.



*L to R, front row - Regional Forester Dave Jolly presents Silver Axe to Team Leader Bernie Weisgerber. Back row - Team members Bill Harris, Cary King, and Dale Swee.*

## Repairs to Lake Como Dam

by Winnie Schreiber, Project Coordinator  
Recreation and Mining  
Bitterroot National Forest

**N**o one knew it at the time, but when Lake Como Dam was built around 1910, the method of construction used would cause the dam to be unstable. The soil in this earthen dam was compacted by using large amounts of water to transport and flood the site rather than using heavy equipment. The faulty construction method, coupled with a foundation that leaked badly, brought the safety of the dam to a point in June 1992 when the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation determined an emergency condition existed. This emergency accelerated the already planned 1993



*Backhoes at work on Lake Como Dam*

reconstruction by one year.

The project carried with it many challenges and pressures, such as completing all NEPA analysis in a very compressed time frame, coordinating a dam project with an ongoing major recreation development at Lake Como,

*continued on page 7*



Building at Ninemile Wildlands Training Center where many of the trainings for the new National Wilderness Training Center will be held.

**F**orest Service Chief Dale Robertson recently announced establishment of the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center at the Historic Ninemile Remount Depot and Ranger Station in Huson, Montana. Connie Myers, former assistant district ranger for the Ninemile Ranger District, has been selected as director.

The center will provide a national focus to wilderness training and education. It will identify high priority training and education needs, develop and distribute training materials, and act as a clearinghouse for training and education information.

The center will be guided by an interagency steering committee and a national wilderness working group. The working group will include Regional Wilderness Specialists Liz Close and Steve Morton and will be chaired by John Twiss, National Leader for Wilderness Management in the Washington Office.

Robertson also announced that the newly created Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute will be located in Missoula. The institute will conduct and expand wilderness research into the use and management of wilderness; integrate and coordinate research efforts among governments agencies, universities and other research organizations; develop and implement innovative technology transfer methods; and provide technical assistance in national and international wilderness-related issues.

A decision has not been made as yet on a permanent location for the institute. In the interim, it will be at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory on the University of Montana campus.

The institute will be guided by the same interagency steering committee guiding the training center and by university consortia. Both the center and the institute will be dedicated at a formal ceremony to be held in August.

## *Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center Set at Ninemile*

**C**onnie Myers, director of the National Wilderness Training Center, began her career with the Forest Service in 1985 as a temporary wildlife biologist on the Ketchikan Area of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska. A year later she was promoted to permanent status as a social scientist assigned to the land management planning unit on the forest. Myers conducted extensive interviews with local users designed to ensure traditional fish and wildlife use areas were appropriately addressed in project and land management plans. In 1987, Myers moved to the Regional Office in Juneau, Alaska to apply her communication and wildlife background as public affairs officer and subsistence specialist for the Tongass land management plan revision team. Additional experience included a detail as resource staff officer on the Ketchikan Area.

In 1991, Myers transferred to the Lolo National Forest as assistant district ranger for the Ninemile Ranger District.

States Myers of her new position, "By capitalizing on existing field and management expertise, we can reduce duplication of effort to keep training costs low and can develop timely and state-of-the-art training products. We are confident that with continued support and involvement, the center can provide the leadership necessary to develop high-quality products that will be useful to wilderness managers throughout the wilderness preservation system."

## The Forest Service: What the People Think

**W**e live in the era of the "poll"—with good reason. Without some form of scientific survey, it would be hard to get a bead on just what our diversified, mobile American population thinks or, in some cases doesn't think, about any one issue. And who is "the public" anyway?

For the Forest Service, with its long history of public involvement, such polls are invaluable in developing a strategy to disseminate information on the agency and its programs. In its continuing efforts to use state of the art methods to improve communication with the public, Region 1 contracted with A & A Research to conduct a communications workshop. To accomplish the task, a professional survey of the public was completed prior to the workshop in all Forests on a wide range of issues.

The survey was done in three stages, in '88, '91, and '92. Each Forest has now received a narrative report on the results of the findings. A summary report will be issued by the Regional Office in the next few weeks, containing both demographic (age, gender, income, etc.) and psychographic (what people think) information.

The results produced fascinating data that will assist the Region in formulating how, when, and where we communicate with the public. Simply running a public notice in the newspaper to get the word out is a thing of the past. For example, the survey has determined the major public uses of the Forests.

The survey also paints of picture of the user—age group, gender, income, what newspapers are read, what radio stations are listened to, what organizations the user belongs to. With this kind of information, the Region can more

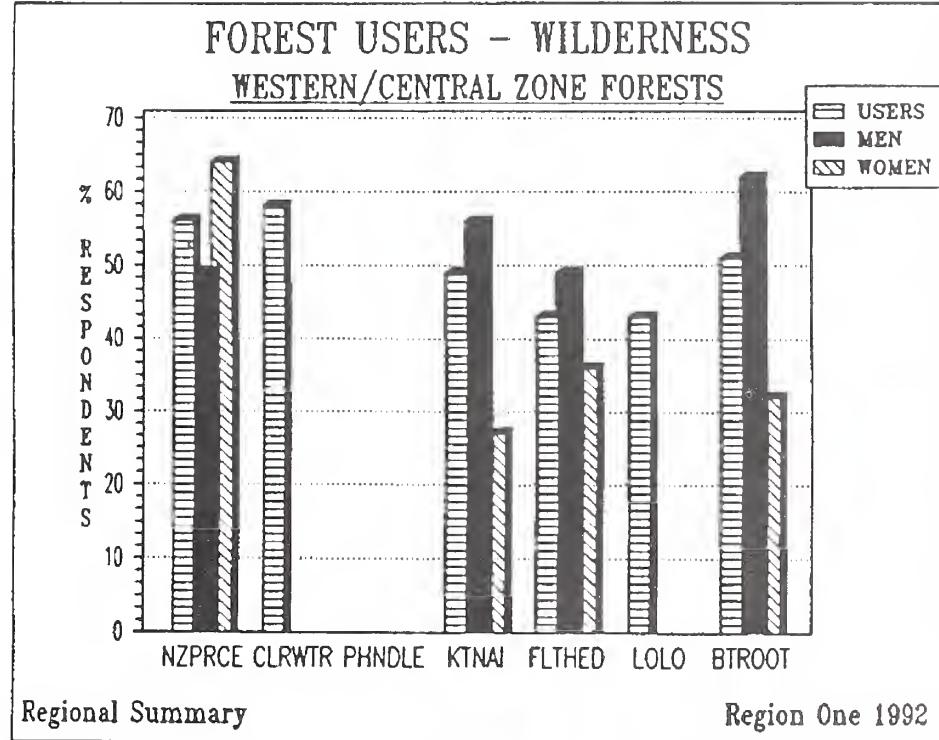
accurately direct information to the targeted audience.

In terms of issues, public opinion on such subjects as clearcutting, endangered species, and fire management is equally important in devising communications strategies.

States Steve Sherick with the Regional Public Affairs Office who coordinated the survey project, "Region 1 is committed to having the best information possible to meet our needs in terms of

communications planning. The data was not gathered to pit Forest against Forest or evaluate Forest management, but specifically to provide data for communications planning."

Sherick warns against lifting isolated pieces of information out of context. The data is complex and cannot be reviewed quickly. The report has to be read in its entirety, Sherick stated, where one piece of information can be validated by balancing it against other data.



The survey indicates high use of wilderness in the Nez Perce National Forest. It also reveals higher use by women than men, helpful information in targeting users for communication with the public on wilderness issues.

## What Do you like, anyway?

We want to know what articles in the Northern Region News you find interesting and get your ideas on what you'd like to see in the future. Please complete the following survey to guide us in our planning for the newsletter. Return to: Gloria Weisgerber, Public Affairs Office, P. O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807.

Columns you most regularly read:

- Spotlight (biographical column)
- Personnel Actions/In Memoriam/Retirement News
- Tips to Live By (health & safety)
- Awards articles
- Note from Dave

Subject areas you find of interest in feature articles:

- Science related (fish, wildlife, etc.)
- Timber related
- History and prehistory related (archaeology, historic preservation, history, interpretation)
- Recreation-related
- Retirement
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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Keeping in mind that Forest Service regulations EXCLUDE use of humor columns, cartoons, poetry, jokes, and personal/social items—what are the kind of articles and information you want to see in the newsletter:

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## Changes to "Monthly Alert"

by Gayle Starr, Program Assistant  
Public Affairs Office, Regional Office

**T**he "Monthly Alert," which is a publication of FS INFO, is being distributed by the Regional Public Affairs Office electronically to reduce printing and mailing costs. This change took effect as of the December issue.

The On-Line Order Form and each issue of the Monthly Alert is filed in a Public Drawer. Regional Office staff directors are notified of its arrival. Each issue has an expiration date when it will be deleted from the public file.

The Regional Public Affairs Office sends each issue to the mailrooms of forests, ranger districts, Montana offices of the Bureau of Land Management, Montana and North Dakota Department of State Lands. The December issue included instructions for ordering, using the self-search data base, and an On-Line Order Form.

The mailrooms distribute to their employees by either:

1. Filing in a public drawer for all employees to access, notify employees of the file location, and notify when new issues arrive; or
2. Distribute the Monthly Alert and On-Line Order Form by use of an individual mailing list.

Employees have sent numerous messages requesting the On-line Order Form and the December issue of the Alert. Mailrooms should re-notify employees of the selected distribution process and system of notification.

For information contact Gayle Starr, FS INFO Regional coordinator (G.STARR:ROIA). Telephone (406) 329-3099.

### Newsletter Guidelines

The Northern Region News is published by the Northern Region Public Affairs Office for employees and retirees. Following are guidelines for submitting stories:

- Articles should feature Forest Service employees and retirees involved in Forest Service activities and projects.
- Articles must be concise and timely. All articles are subject to editing, and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or if space does not permit.
- Photos should be black and white, glossy prints if possible.
- Send articles to G.Weisgerber:R01A (Data General) or Gloria Weisgerber, Northern Region Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807. The public affairs officer on your Forest may want to preview articles before they are sent. If so, please follow that process.

## Lake Como Dam Repaired (continued from page 3)

and completing the dam reconstruction by the 1993 season.

After much drilling into the dam and foundation to determine the extent of the problem, design work was completed and reconstruction began in early September 1992. The work area was cleared and excavation of the poor materials was begun using back-hoes. Work has also included: construction of toe drain trenches, placement of perforated drain pipe, placement and compaction of varying layers of material, installation of inspection wells, construction of a temporary cofferdam and replacement of the outlet works.

Large quantities of material have been removed from the original structure and new material brought in to form a new downstream embankment. Approximately 500,000 cubic yards of material has been placed using around the clock shifts of up to 15 belly dumps, or "pans," to expedite construction.

The majority of the dam construction—85 percent—has been completed. Work remaining includes placement of material for the dam crest, spillway renovation, revegetation of disturbed areas and completion of project mitigations.

All has gone well with this multi-million dollar project. It has been completed in a timely fashion, with state-of-the-art engineering, and has been an education for all those involved.

## R-1 NFFE Representatives Visit D.C.

by Philip Ruff, Forester  
Wallace Ranger District  
Idaho Panhandle National Forests

**T**he first week of March, Debbie Perry and Phil Ruff from the Idaho Panhandle and Doug Wright from the Regional Office, were in Washington, D.C. to participate in the annual National Federation of Federal Employees (NFFE) National Lobby Week. Debbie currently serves as president of Sandpoint NFFE Local 1402 and Region 1 vice president of the NFFE Forest Service Council. Phil is president of Coeur d'Alene NFFE Local 1818 and is National vice president for NFFE Region 7, which includes Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and Pacific Overseas. Doug is chief steward for Missoula NFFE Local 60. They joined over 200 other NFFE members in addressing members of Congress on issues affecting Federal employees.

In addition to meeting with members of Congress, the three R-1 representatives and other Forest Service employee lobbyists met with the administrative/personnel staff in the Forest Service chief's office to discuss issues of specific concern to Forest Service workers.

The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, downsizing, and the need for Employee Assistance Programs to help cope with downsizing were among the topics discussed.

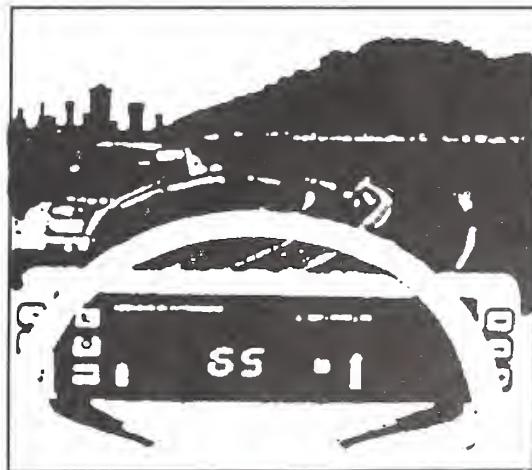
## Tips to Live By

### Year-end Report: Personal Injuries

**T**he figures are in—"slips, trips, twists, and falls" lead the Region in numbers of personal injuries. Other types of injuries in the top five include handling materials, hand tools, animals/insects, and fire related.

Also of concern is the high vehicular accident rate. The greatest number of accidents resulted from trying to avoid other vehicles. A safety message has been issued to Regional management to remind employees to take the following precautions:

1. Familiarize yourself with the vehicle. Take a few minutes to check fluid levels. Know where the controls are.
2. Fasten seat belts. Is is now a State law and has proved to help save lives.
3. Know when NOT to drive. Avoid driving if you are stressed out. Ask a fellow traveler to drive. Cancel the trip if you cannot drive safely.
4. Attitude is one key to safe driving. Being able to complete your trip without difficulty will require that you have your mind on what you are doing and that you drive with care.
5. The attitude that "management cares" needs to be conveyed to all employees.
6. Slow down. Safe following distances may increase from 2 to 10 times relative to conditions.
7. Avoid distractions. At 60 mph your vehicle travels 88 feet every second. A few seconds of inattention may lead to a dangerous situation.
8. Make frequent stops.
9. Share the driving duties. It's good to have a "co-pilot" to keep everyone alert.
10. Stay over one more night. If you finish late in the day, consider an extra night. You aren't accomplishing a thing by risking an accident.



# Not Your Average Day

by Patsy Treat, Manpower Development Specialist  
Flathead National Forest

**I**t was with excitement and anticipation that I jumped out of bed on the morning of November 4, 1992 to don many layers of clothes for my planned field day with a group of developmentally disabled students from Flathead High School.

As the Manpower Development Specialist for the Flathead National Forest one of my responsibilities is to negotiate agreements with various private nonprofit organizations. It is a very rewarding position, since through these agreements I have been able to provide individuals from all age groups and ethnic backgrounds meaningful training and work experience. These agreements provide opportunities for individuals to show their "stuff" and provide a way for the Forest Service to get needed work done.

The plan for the day was to meet at Emery Bay Campground in the Hungry Horse Ranger District and help plant shrubs in the campground area. This was a project pulled together by Elizabeth Neill and Pat Thomas, landscape architects for the Flathead National Forest and myself. The agreement with Flathead High School allowed us to utilize a job coach and developmentally disabled students from the All Stars (students involved in work experience programs).

Sue Corrigan, School District 5 job coach, and her crew of "All Stars" (Logan, Shelby, Tess, Cindy and Stuart) picked me up at the Hungry Horse Ranger District Office and we headed for the project site.

At the campground we paired the students with adults and split up. Sue Corrigan and I paired up with Cindy. We explained to Cindy how to utilize the shovel to clear out the holes for planting shrubs and trees. Soon she was digging on her own, with some encouragement from Sue and me.

After laboring on one small hole for at least 20 minutes, Fred Flint and Bob Hurd, Hungry Horse employees, appeared with a motor driven ground drill that tore up the ground in a matter of seconds. Cindy was completely enthralled with the drill. Next we set the tree into the hole and added peat moss and dirt. Kraig Lang, another Hungry Horse employee, appeared just as we headed for the next planting spot. Cindy grabbed hold of Kraig's arm and Kraig assisted Cindy up the next hill.

Meanwhile, the rest of the students worked steadily with their adult co-partners. Sue Corrigan, job coach, exercised patience as students learned



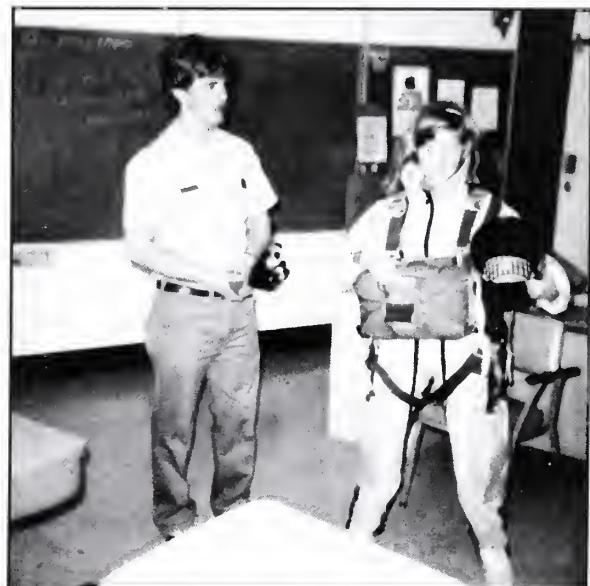
L to R - Cindy, an All Star, and Flathead Forest landscape architect Elizabeth Neill.

how to handle the pick and shovel to clean out the hole prior to planting the trees and shrubs.

By early afternoon all the students had the hang of things and were working steadily. By the end of the day, 82 trees and shrubs had been planted. It was easy to see that the students were happy with the results and that they felt a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Sue and crew packed up early enough to get back to Flathead High School in time for the buses. But before they left, all the students shook hands and Cindy gave Pat Thomas a big hug. Once the high school crew left, things seemed really quiet and not as exciting. This crew of developmentally disabled young adults had really made our day.

## Reading Program a Hit



R-1 Information Assistant Tim Eldridge at left speaks to a 5th grade class at Lewis and Clark School in Missoula. At right is Megan Wilcomb dressed as a smokejumper. Eldridge was a guest reader during the "National I Love to Read Week," selecting Norman Maclean's work "Young Men and Fire."

# Sharing Knowledge

## at the Lewis and Clark

by Bonnie Dearing, Public Information Specialist  
Lewis and Clark National Forest

**F**or two winners of the '92 Montana Science Fair, there was an added bonus to taking top prize—a field trip to the Lewis and Clark National Forest to spend a day with a professional in their field of interest.

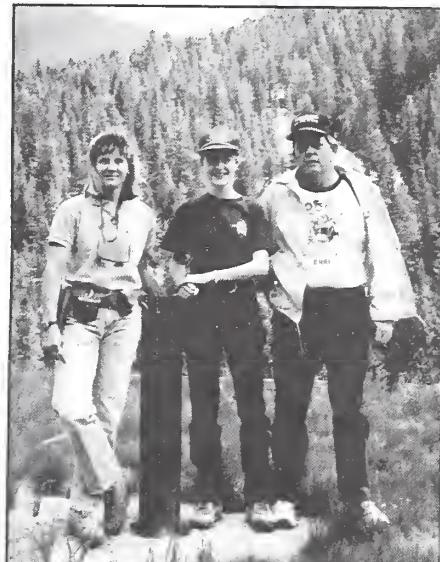
Jessica Filipowicz, whose project covered the effects of temporary diversion structures to stream channel and aquatic habitat, spent a day with Forest Service hydrologist Karen Hoffman. Jessica and her teacher Bill Peterson accompanied Hoffman on a visit to a diversion structure and an old splash dam area near Jumping Creek campground. They discussed channel dynamics, relationships between stream factors of width, depth, slope, sediment loading and stream bed material composition, stream velocity and discharge.

They also looked at changes to the channel as a result of the dam, which dates to the turn of the century. The dam, used to collect water to float logs, was dynamited to allow logs to be carried downstream.

Annie Nylund, whose project dealt with the use of biological organisms to alleviate damage caused by oil spills, spent a day with forest geologist Robin Strathy. A tour was arranged to the Barker-Hughesville area in the Little Belt Mountains to look at the effects of past hard rock mining activities to investigate the use of biological materials to clean up acid mine drainage.

A local resident provided information on mining history of the area and the efforts to reduce seepage through acid-generating waste rock piles and old mill tailings. During the field trip, Annie measured the pH levels of some of the water coming from the old workings as well as the drainages that flowed through or adjacent to waste rock and mill tailings. She then traced how far downstream effects of past mining were still evident.

Hoffman and Strathy, who donated weekend time to be with the students, both agreed it was worth the effort. Stated



L to R - Forest Service geologist Robin Strathy, student Annie Nylund, and teacher Bill Peterson

Strathy, "We thoroughly enjoyed our experience with the science fair award winners. The students were enthusiastic, interested, and INTERESTING. Their enjoyment of learning was contagious. It was refreshing to share resource management perspectives with the next generation of land managers."

## at the Cabinet District

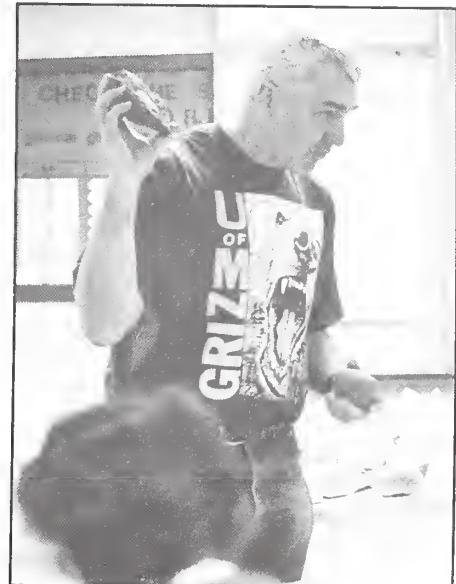
by Diana Enright, Information Specialist  
Cabinet Ranger District  
Kootenai National Forest

**Y**ou don't have to live in the big city to attend a lecture series given by experts in such fields as geology, insects, past cultures, bears, birds or native plants. The Cabinet Ranger District realized the wealth of information it has with its employees and recently decided to "share the wealth" with the local community.

The district initiated an informal lecture series for the public, leading off with a talk by Lou Kuennen, Kootenai National Forest soils scientist. The sizeable crowd that gathered in Trout Creek on January 28 now knows a little more than they did before on why the land in that area looks as it does—how glacial lakes, ice, lava, and volcanic ash combined to produce the terrain we have today.

According to Kuennen, it is the wind-blown volcanic ash or loess that contributes to the fertility of the forest and to the quality of the life-style in northwestern Montana. The ash, which holds a large amount of water and nutrients, came from the Crater Lake area.

Obviously enjoying the opportunity to talk with the experts, the audience had many questions for Kuennen at the end of his presentation. The district is pleased with the response and is taking a pro-active approach with its new outreach program by contacting local organizations to determine what subject would appeal to the general public for future presentations.



Lou Kuennen

## Personnel Update

### BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

#### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

FREY, SHARON, mail and file clerk, SO, promotion  
WOOD, STEPHANIE, natural resource specialist, Sheridan RD, promotion

#### REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

COWLEY, PAUL, fisheries biologist, Wise River/Wisdom RD, reassignment, Wasatche-Cache NF  
KOKERNAK, PAUL, civil engineer, 50, reassignment, Pike & San Isabel National Forests/Comanche & Cimarron National Grasslands

### BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

#### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BURSBY, DONNA, office automation clerk, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
COOPER, JOHN, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
DRINVILLE, PRISCILLA, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award

FERGUSON, CLARENCE, training technician, Trapper Creek JCC, promotion  
FLOCH, RICK, forester, Darby RD, cash award  
HAMMER, BOB, hydrologist, SO, cash award  
HAYES, FOREST, biological scientist, SO, cash award  
KAHL, JIM, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
KIEFFER, SALLY, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
LABEREE, SHANE, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
McKEE, BOB, forestry technician, Darby RD, cash award  
MENK, JEFF, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
NEYENHUIS, WARREN, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award

OLK, JOSEPH, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
ORMISTON, JOHN, wildlife biologist, SO, cash award  
PRAUSA, CHUCK, resource coordinator, SO, cash award  
QUINN, JOSEPH, principal, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
ROSE, NEIL, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
RUSSELL, GLORIA, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
RYKE, NANCY, wildlife biologist, SO, cash award  
SHAVER, WALTER, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
SHOOK, LYSLE, gardner training leader, Trapper Creek JCC, cash award  
SMITH, EDDIE, custodial worker, SO, cash award  
STEWART, CATHY, forester, Stevensville RD, cash award  
THOMPSON, KIRK, spvry civil engineer, SO, cash award  
WAGNER, TOM, district ranger, Darby RD, cash award

#### NEW EMPLOYEES

LEE, CHERYL, career conditional appointment, culinary arts instructor, Trapper Creek JCC  
MOORE, PATTI, career conditional appointment, social services aid, Trapper Creek JCC

#### REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

PRICE, DEB, purchasing agent, SO, reassignment, procurement clerk  
RYKE, NANCY, wildlife biologist, SO, transfer, R-2, Pike & San Isabel NF, Comanche & Cimarron National Grasslands, SO, interdisciplinary wildlife/fisheries biologist  
STANICH, CHUCK, forestry technician (timber), Stevensville RD, reassignment, SO, forestry technician (fuels)

### CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

#### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

KIRTLAND, MAPLE, computer assistant, Pierce RD, promotion transfer, Nezperce NF

KUSICKO, RICK, administrative forester, Pierce RD, temporary promotion  
REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

GIESEY, MIKE, forester, Pierce RD to Kootenai NF, transfer  
GRIFFITH, DENNIS, forester, Lochsa RD to Nezperce NF, transfer  
POLLWORTH, SHIRLEY, civilian pay clerk, Nezperce NF, transfer, Pierce RD

### DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST

#### AWARDS/PROMOTIONS

BALLANTYNE, LARRY, forestry technician, Butte RD, promotion  
BOWEN, PALMER, social scientist, Butte RD, cash award  
EDELEN, RUSSELL, biological science technician, cash award  
HEINTZ, THOMAS, forester (adm), Philipsburg RD, cash award  
HENNINGSEN, RICK, forester, Butte RD, cash award  
HINKLE, CHARLES, forestry technician, Philipsburg RD, cash award

JOHNS, ROBERT, forestry technician, Butte RD, promotion  
MCCLAIN, GEORGE, range technician, Philipsburg RD, cash award  
MCFARLAND, LIZ, geologist, Butte RD, cash award  
MCNAMARA, JAMES, forester, Butte RD, cash award  
MARIANI, JINA, wildlife biologist, Butte RD, cash award  
PRINKKI, DONALD, teacher, Anaconda CCC, cash award  
SANBORN, BRIAN, fisheries biologist, Butte RD, cash award

#### RESIGNATIONS

MEYERS, CAROLE, guidance counselor, Anaconda CCC

### GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

#### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BURKENPAS, ANNA, personnel clerk, promotion, SO  
CLARK, STEVE, forester, cash award, Bozeman RD

#### REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

BELL, MARC, criminal investigator, reassignment, Region One Special Investigations Unit, duty station, Bozeman SO

### HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

#### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

CAMPBELL, DARCEY, computer assistant, SO, reassignment  
CULP, STEVE, forestry technician, SO, promotion  
ECCLES, TERRY, forester, Lincoln RD, promotion  
EDGERLEY, COLLEEN, resource assistant, Helena RD, promotion  
ELLIOTT, NINA, SSS, Helena RD, cash award  
MENARD, LINDA, resource assistant, Lincoln RD, promotion  
RYAN, FERN, resource clerk, SO, QSI award  
TOBOL, SHARON, SSS, Helena RD, promotion

#### REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

ONDOW, RACHEL, range technician, Townsend RD, reassignment, Gallatin NF

### IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

#### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ALEXANDER, PATRICIA, cash award, Bonners Ferry RD  
ANDERSON, MICHAEL, cash award, engineer, St. Maries RD  
ANDERSON, WILLIAM, cash award, St. Maries RD  
ARRHENIUS, TAMMI, cash award, engineer, St. Maries RD  
BAHE, RALPH, cash award, Bonners Ferry RD  
BEHRENDS, ELIZABETH, cash award, St. Maries RD  
BOCKSTRUCK, WILLIAM, cash award, engineer, St. Maries RD  
BOHON, TRACY, cash award, SO  
BROCKUS, KAREN, cash award, Priest Lake RD  
BRUNING, JOHN, promotion, forestry technician, Fernan RD  
BURNSIDE, SUZANNE, cash award, Fernan RD  
CARAPELLA, RUTH, cash award, St. Maries RD  
DALY, MICHAEL, cash award, engineer, SO  
DAVIS, LINDA, cash award, Fernan RD  
DILLON, DAVID, cash award, Sandpoint RD  
DORRELL, JACK, quality step increase, Bonners Ferry RD  
EATON, WILLIAM, cash award, engineer, St. Maries RD  
FAULKNER, DAVID, cash award, SO  
FISHER, CAROL, cash award, SO  
GLEN, TAMMY, cash award, Bonners Ferry RD  
GRANT, BETTY, cash award, SO  
HALLEN, DAVID, cash award, SO  
HALLISEY, JUDY, cash award, St. Maries RD  
HARRIS, GARY, cash award, Sandpoint RD  
HARTMAN, LEE, cash award, SO  
HEFFNER, KENNETH, Sandpoint RD  
HENDERSON-NORTON, DEBORAH, cash award, Bonners Ferry RD  
HICKERSON, THOMAS, cash award and promotion, Fernan RD  
JARRELL, TERRIE, civil engineer, promotion, SO  
JOHNSON, LESTER, cash award, SO  
KLARICH, ROBERT, cash award, Bonners Ferry RD  
LAVALLEY, SHANE, cash award, SO  
LAVENDEL, CLAIRE, cash award, Sandpoint RD  
LIBBY, CAMILLE, cash award, Sandpoint RD  
MCCORD, BRENDA, cash award, St. Maries RD  
MCKIM, DAVID, cash award, St. Maries RD  
MALONE, MARY, cash award, Bonners Ferry RD

# Personnel Update

MOEN, JAMES, cash award, St. Maries RD  
 MONTGOMERY, JOHN, quality step increase, MOTTERN, BERTALEE, cash award, SO  
 NAFFIN, KEVIN, cash award, Sandpoint RD  
 PARK, GLORIA, cash award, Avery RD  
 PEDEY, KAREN, cash award, Bonners Ferry RD  
 PENNICK, JEFFREY, cash award, Sandpoint RD  
 PERRY, ROBERT, promotion, forestry technician, Sandpoint RD  
 PORT, RALPH, cash award, St. Maries RD  
 RICHARDSON, JEAN, cash award, Bonners Ferry RD  
 RIPATTI, LORI, cash award, Bonners Ferry RD  
 SANBORN, VIRGINIA, cash award, Bonners Ferry RD  
 SHIRA, PATRICIA, cash award, Priest Lake RD  
 SMITH, DONALD, cash award, St. Maries RD  
 SMITH, KELLY, cash award, Bonners Ferry RD  
 STEVENS, LARRY, cash award, St. Maries RD  
 SVINGEN, DANIEL, cash award, St. Maries RD  
 TYMRAK, VICKI, cash award, Priest Lake RD  
 URBANSKI, FRANK, promotion, forestry technician, Sandpoint RD  
 VOIGT, BARBARA, cash award, SO  
 WALLACE, JAMES, quality step increase, Feman RD  
 WELBOURN, DOUGLAS, cash award, Feman RD  
 WILFERT, RICHARD, cash award, Sandpoint RD  
 WILKINSON, THOMAS, cash award, St. Maries RD  
 WOOD, DONNA, cash award, SO  
 YOUNG, BARBARA, soil scientist, promotion, geologist trainee, Priest Lake RD

## REASSIGNMENT/TRANSFER

HAYES, EDWINA, mail/file clerk, reassignment, resource clerk/typing, St. Maries RD  
 JACOBSON, SANDRA, supervisory wildlife biologist, reassignment, wildlife biologist, Bonners Ferry RD  
 KERTIS, NANCY, forester, reassignment, Sandpoint RD  
 MCCONNEL, LEE, soil scientist, Custer NF, reassignment, Avery RD  
 MOUSSEAU, MARK, forester trainee, reassignment, forester, Coeur d'Alene Nursery

## RESIGNATIONS

MIHELICK, JOSEPH, resignation, Wallace RD

## LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST

### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ROBERTS, BARBARA, spot award, SO  
 ROWLAND, DEAN, spot award, Judith RD  
 SCHMOYER-WEBER, JANE, spot award, SO  
 WOODS, MARILYN, spot award, SO

### REASSIGNMENTS

JOHNSTEN, JENNIFER, forester trainee, Musselshell RD, reassignment, Kings Hill RD

## LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BENTON, RON, surveying technician, SO, 25-year service award  
 BRICKER, WILLIAM, cartographic technician, Superior RD, spot award  
 PENGELLY, MARK, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award  
 PETTEYS, DAVID, supervisory forestry technician, Plains RD, 10-year service award  
 SMITH, ELAINE, computer assistant, Superior RD, 10-year service award  
 TALIAFERRO, DIANE, forestry technician, Ninemile RD, safety award  
 WOODSON, DAN, forestry technician, Superior RD, 25-year service award

### REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

HEGMAN, SKIP, civil engineering technician, SO, reassignment, forestry technician, Missoula RD  
 HILMO, RON, civil engineering technician, SO, reassignment, forestry technician, Ninemile RD  
 JOHNSON, LARRY, forester, Ninemile RD, reassignment, interdisciplinary, Wasatch Cache NF, Evanston RD  
 PEACOCK, CHERI, supervisory civil engineering, SO, reassignment, supervisory civil engineering, Plains RD  
 TANASCU, MIKE, forester, RO, reassignment, supervisory forester, SO  
 THOLEN, SUE, forester, Missoula RD, transfer, forester, BLM Boise, ID

### RESIGNATIONS

GOLDBACH, WAYNE A., cartographic technician, SO

## NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

### AWARDS AND PROMOTIONS

BECK, BARBARA, District Ranger, Clearwater RD, special act award  
 BESS, KATHY, resource clerk, Selway RD, performance award  
 DAILEY, DENNIS, District Ranger, Moose Creek RD, special act award  
 DANIELS, DEBBIE, mail and file clerk, SO, special act award  
 GREEN, PATRICIA, soil scientist, SO, special act award  
 HOCKING, SCOTT, forestry technician, SO, performance award  
 JAHN, PHILLIP, supervisory soil scientist, SO, special act award  
 MELL, JEFFREY, forester, Selway RD, performance award  
 PHILLIPS, HELEN, computer assistant, Selway RD, special act award  
 ROSE, VIOLET, copier/duplicating equipment operator, special act award  
 RUZICKA, TERESA, time & leave clerk, Salmon River RD, special act award  
 SELOSKE, GARRY, fisheries biologist, Salmon River RD, promotion  
 SHEPPARD, JOAN, supervisory contract specialist, SO, special act  
 STEWART, JA'NICE, procurement assistant, SO, special act award  
 WARD, ROGER, forester, SO, special act award  
 WRIGHT, GARY, forestry technician, Salmon River RD, special act award  
 ZACHARY, RUTH, financial clerk, Salmon River RD, special act award

### REASSIGNMENTS

STERUD, YVONNE, contracting specialist, SO, from White Mountain NF

## REGIONAL OFFICE

### AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

CURDY, WILLIS, forestry technician-smokejumper, A&FM, QSI  
 FIELDHOUSE, PAUL, forestry technician-smokejumper, A&FM, spot award  
 FINNEMAN, COLLEEN, program assistant, A&FM-AFD, spot award  
 FOTH, CAROL, program assistant, ADM, cash award  
 GRAHAM, DEAN, rural development specialist, TCFPM, promotion  
 GYLES, ROSELYN, secretary, RFO, quality step increase  
 HALL, DEBBY, classification and wage specialist, PM, cash award  
 LOCKMAN, IRENE, plant pathologist, TCFPM, conv to CC/promotion  
 MAHALOVICH, MARY, forester, TCFPM, Moscow, promotion  
 MCCONNELL, TIM, biological science technician, TCFPM, promotion  
 PUTMAN, BILL, hydrologist, RAWE, promotion  
 REED, SUSAN, office automation clerk, L&M, spot award  
 SCHLUTER, JUDY, budget analyst, L&FP, promotion  
 STICKNEY, CHERYL, land law examiner, L&M, spot award  
 TESORO, RAY, geologist, L&M, quality step increase

### NEW EMPLOYEES

BROWN, CHERYL, time & leave clerk, A&FM-AFD

### REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

LAKE, CRYSTAL, office automation clerk, A&FM, to secretary, PM  
 SCHIWECK, LETTY, management assistant, reassignment, management assistant, MS

## Retirement News

GEORGE AGAR, engineer, Sandpoint RD, Idaho Panhandle NFs

DICK DEDEN, supervisory forester, TCFPM, RO

NINA ELLIOTT, SSS, Helena RD, Helena NF

LAVONNE HOSELTON, secretary, PM, RO

LEE MOWREADER, engineer, St. Maries RD, Idaho Panhandle NFs

## In Memoriam

Jerry E. Simmons, 64, died in Benton, Arkansas. Simmons previously worked for the Department of Interior in Arkansas and Alaska before transferring to Region 1 of the Forest Service, Division of Engineering in 1960. From 1961-63 he worked for the Kaniksu National Forest in Engineering before transferring back to the Regional Office where he served until 1973. From 1973 until his retirement in 1977, he was employed as a construction inspector for the Lolo National Forest.

Although confined to a wheelchair in recent years, Simmons continued to volunteer to help others in a literacy program in Arkansas.

## Beaverhead Staff Gather for 'Pow-Wow'

by Jack de Golia, Public Affairs Officer  
Beaverhead National Forest



**O**n January 26, most employees on the Beaverhead gathered at the St. Rose Family Center in Dillon—not in spite of hard budget times, but because of them. The Forest's Human Resources Action Team (HRAT), formerly called the Civil Rights Action Group, decided that we all needed a dose of togetherness, of sharing and learning together about the differences that makes us a united whole. They won the support of the Forest Leadership Team for a "pow wow" for all employees.

HRAT put together a special program celebrating our staff's roots. The program included a multimedia presentation, "Inspirada Americana," a program of song, legend, and history, illustrated by projected photographs and paintings. Phil White Hawk and his wife, Connie Bellet, combine their talents in telling the history

of Indians and Europeans in America.

Next on the agenda was a "Bring Your Heritage Potluck." A few folks stood up before lunch and told us the story of their mother's or grandmother's favorite recipe that linked them to other ancestors. Afterlunch, each of the Beaverhead's rangers and the Forest Supervisor took turns bragging about the accomplishments of their units. The rules said no one could cut down another unit, but the line officers could "suck up," trying to curry favor with their boss. They incurred a penalty—brown shoe polish on their noses—if they got caught "sucking up" by the referees.

Unaccustomed as they were to public speaking, the rangers—Barry Hicks, Ed Levert, Mark Petroni, and Dennis Havig—and Ron Prichard, the forest su-



Cathy Speich (with hat) describes Lapp culture while Tom Malecek (at left) and "Fergie" Ferguson listen.

pervisor, rose to the occasion and gave us a fun way to hear good words about "us" and what we've accomplished: good medicine for hard times. We ended the day with Ron presenting a number of awards for 20 and 30 years of service, for merit, and for special accomplishments.

Then, we all went back to work the next day. What did we bring with us? A smile. A deeper understanding of people we live with everyday. Many things. Certainly a special thanks to HRAT—Peri Suenram, Debbie Johnson, Sharon Frey, Brian Quinn, Chuck Bowey, Janet Bean-Dochnahl, and Jeff Jones—for wanting to help.

## The Northern Region News

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